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Britain goes from great to just silly

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Body

It is the most advanced of times.

It is the silliest of times. Science reaches out to the cosmos.

Protesters scale Mount Stupid. This is 2022. It was about 42 years ago that the Brits introduced one of their most successful comedy-satires, which they are so good at. It was Yes Minister, with the wily Sir Humphrey Appleby outclassing, out-thinking and outmanoeuvring the hapless, hopeless prime minister, Jim Hacker. It was roaring good fun, even sharper than monologues at a Parliamentary Press Gallery nosh.

But how dated, how short of the target would it be today? It could work today only as a documentary for how the once dignified and respected government of a one-time world empire, Great Britain, has fallen and declined.

Reality now outpaces all attempts at mocking it. The headline news is the new comedy. What was unthinkable yesterday - a man can be a woman, a woman a man, provides a current illustration - is today's orthodoxy.

Great Britain had what may turn out to be its last moment with the passing of Elizabeth, its queen. Though famous just by her position in so long a line of monarchs, she declined in every way the fashionable monstrosity of today's "celebrityitis." Celebrityitis involves the fever to be known just to be known, a fame built on the sand of non-achievement, unless the release of sex videos or piling up TikTok twerking views may be taken as achievements.

Well, matters in Great Britain are no longer solemn or dignified.

The prime ministership of Great Britain, occupied by fabled names from the days of Pitt the Younger, Disraeli and Gladstone, and the mighty Winston Churchill, has been turned into a shuttlecock fought over by amateurs.

On Sunday, Boris Johnson pulled out of the race to become prime minister (again), following the humiliating departure of Liz Truss, who had replaced him in that once great office following his humiliating departure just 45 days earlier. The leadership of Great Britain has all the majesty of a TV game show.

Deal or no deal, anyone? From Alan McGuinness of Sky News came the perfect encapsulation of modern British politics: "My son has lived through four chancellors, three home secretaries, two prime ministers and two monarchs. He's four months old."

A great G7 country, in a time of turmoil, inflation, an energy crisis and a war, plays spin-the-bottle for its most powerful office. Accompanied by the truly frightening spectacle over on this side of the Atlantic of an American president of dubious competence and faltering memory who may have fallen asleep during a recent live interview.

This is all on the high and consequential stage of world politics. Drop down from those heights and what do we have? Well, we see those who have most intensely signed on to the modern version of the Book of Revelations - apocalyptic global warming - give evidence of their commitment and their intelligence, showing us how really serious they are, by throwing mashed potatoes at a western masterpiece - Monet's Les Meules (part of his Haystacks series).

This followed by just nine days an equal moment of deep fatuousness when another band of ***doom*** prophets threw tomato soup on a work of Van Gogh's Sunflowers. We have yet to advance to pie-throwing at the Sistine Chapel, but it's coming.

This is called a protest. Can we not have protocols that when public advocacy explores daring regions of stupidity - and may I suggest that throwing potatoes at a masterpiece, whether they are mashed or not, would meet that test - it is mocked without reservation for the pure idiocy it is? The only, and slim, utility these stunts have is as a reminder that these radical green ideologues have untethered themselves from logic, decency and any claim to public attention or regard whatsoever.

At the same time that there is the shadow of nuclear conflict there are people earning headline space for tossing root vegetables in a German art gallery. Or squatting on city thoroughfares, impeding ambulances and fire trucks. And the world takes the cause that these types champion seriously? And just to make the moment complete, note this headline from Britain's Daily Mail: "Moment transgender singer strips naked live on Channel 4 and plays the keyboard with her penis, at BBC 4."

It is the most advanced of times.

It is the wokeist of times. And the second half of that formulation is greatly exceeding the first. The world is not under threat from a ***climate*** apocalypse. It is under threat from the perfect foolishness and unhinged thought that is now accepted as normal.

National Post The big issues are far from settled. Sign up for the NP Comment newsletter, NP Platformed, at nationalpost.com/platformed !@COPYRIGHT=© 2022 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Graphic

Jeff J Mitchell, Getty Images; Journalists gather on Downing Street ahead of the United Kingdom's second Conservative leadership election of 2022 on Monday. The leadership of Great Britain has all the majesty of a television game show, says Rex Murphy.;

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